

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A loading system, comprising:

a main frame supported by a plurality of wheels, the main frame including a pair of spaced-apart support arms extending in a longitudinal direction of the loading system;

a lifting frame pivotally attached to said main frame, said lifting frame including a lever arm and a pair of spaced-apart lifting arms directly connected to the lever arm, the pair of spaced-apart lifting arms extending in the longitudinal direction of the loading system, the pair of spaced-apart lifting arms of the lifting frame in conjunction with the pair of spaced-apart support arms of the main frame defining a spool receiving volume in the rear of the loading system;

a support rack attached to said lifting arms, said support rack comprising a pair of spaced-apart rack members, said rack members being configured to support a spool, each rack member extending mainly vertically from one of the lifting arms; and

a connecting device for connecting said lifting frame to the main frame to prevent pivoting movement of said lifting frame,

wherein the rear of said loading system is open to afford the loading, transporting, and unloading of spools, and

wherein each of said rack members includes a plurality of pockets at various heights along said rack members to accommodate different sized spools, the pockets forming a resting and securing place for ends of spindles upon which spools are positioned.

2. (Previously Presented) The loading system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one jack stand attached to said main frame for stabilizing said loading system when not connected to a towing vehicle.

3. (Previously Presented) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein said main frame includes a tongue with a hitch mounted at the front of said tongue for towing said loading system.

4. (Previously Presented) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein said connecting device comprises a U-shaped yoke fastened to a vertical support member extending upwardly from said main frame, and a pin for interconnecting said U-shaped yoke to said lever arm.

5. (Previously Presented) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein said main frame includes a tongue operably connected to the pair of spaced-apart support arms.

6. (Original) The loading system according to claim 5, wherein each of said support arms includes a pair of fulcrum arms extending upwardly diagonally therefrom.

7. (Previously Presented) A loading system, comprising:
a main frame supported by a plurality of wheels, the main frame including a pair of spaced-apart support arms extending in a longitudinal direction of the loading system, each of said support arms including a pair of fulcrum arms extending upwardly diagonally therefrom;

a lifting frame pivotally attached to said main frame, said lifting frame including a lever arm and a pair of spaced-apart lifting arms directly connected to the lever arm, the pair of spaced-apart lifting arms extending in the longitudinal direction of the loading system, the pair of spaced-apart lifting arms of the lifting frame in conjunction with the pair of spaced-apart support arms of the main frame defining a spool receiving volume in the rear of the loading system;

a pair of trapezoidal plates, each trapezoidal plate joining upper ends of a corresponding pair of said pair of fulcrum arms, wherein said pair of fulcrum arms form a triangle wherein two bottom corners of said triangle are fastened to the main frame and said trapezoidal plate is at an apex of said triangle, said apex being connected to said lifting frame;

a support rack attached to said lifting arms, said support rack comprising a pair of spaced-apart rack members, said rack members being configured to support a spool, each rack member extending mainly vertically from one of the lifting arms; and

a connecting device for connecting said lifting frame to the main frame to prevent pivoting movement of said lifting frame,

wherein the rear of said loading system is open to afford the loading, transporting, and unloading of spools.

8. (Original) The loading system of claim 7, wherein said trapezoidal plates have holes drilled, cast, cut or stamped in them to accommodate a pin and to function as a fulcrum.

9. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of pockets are U-shaped pockets.

10. (Original) The loading system of claim 9, wherein said pockets are of a plurality of sizes to accommodate various spool and spindle diameters.

11. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 1, wherein a spool may be secured in position on a spindle using locking and centering collars on both sides of the spool.

12. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 9, wherein each of said rack members includes a locking device and a securing rack for holding the spindles in said pockets.

13. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 12, wherein said securing rack is kept in position by the locking device which is spring loaded to hold it in one of a locking position, engaged position, unlocked position, or disengaged position.

14. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 3, wherein said main frame includes a horizontal lateral cross member interconnecting forward ends of said spaced-apart support arms and to which a rearward end of said tongue is attached.

15. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 1, wherein said lifting frame includes a horizontal lateral cross member interconnecting forward ends of said spaced-apart lifting arms and to which a rearward end of said lever arm is attached.

16. (Original) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein the loading system is adapted to carry bales, the bales being held in place by bale penetrating bars.

17. (Currently Amended) The loading system according to claim 16, wherein said bars are supported by corresponding pockets of said plurality of pockets along the rack members.

18. (Previously Presented) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein the loading system is adapted to carry bales, the bales being held in place by bale engaging and holding members, which are rotatably mounted on a spindle and are held in place by collars.

19. (Previously Presented) The loading system according to claim 18, wherein the engaging and holding members are rotatable over the spindle allowing the bale to unroll.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A loading system having a pre-loaded position and a loaded position, comprising:

a main frame supported by a plurality of wheels, the main frame including a pair of spaced-apart support arms extending in a longitudinal direction of the loading system;

a lifting frame pivotally attached to said main frame, said lifting frame including a lever arm and a pair of spaced-apart lifting arms directly connected to the lever arm, the pair of spaced-apart lifting arms extending in the longitudinal direction of the loading system, the pair of spaced-apart arms of the lifting frame in conjunction with the pair of spaced-apart support arms of the main frame defining a load receiving volume in the rear of the loading system;

a support rack attached to said lifting arms, said support rack comprising a pair of spaced-apart rack members; and

a connecting device for connecting said lifting frame to the main frame to prevent pivoting movement of said lifting frame,

wherein the rear of said loading system is open to afford the loading, transporting, and unloading of loads,

wherein the pair of spaced-apart lifting arms extend in the longitudinal direction in the pre-loaded position of the loading system and in the loaded position of the loading system, and

wherein each of said rack members includes a plurality of pockets at various heights along said rack members to accommodate different sized spools, the pockets forming a resting and securing place for ends of spindles upon which spools are positioned.

22. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of spaced-apart support arms extend substantially parallel to each other.

23. (Previously Presented) The loading system of claim 22, further comprising a pair of fulcrums that pivotally support the lifting frame, each of the pair of fulcrums being attached to a middle portion of each of the pair of spaced apart support arms.